

## FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

### WINTER ISSUE—FEBRUARY, 2001

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#### Our Volunteers are World Class!

The United Nations has declared 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers, and in this issue, FCPL is proud to feature stories about volunteers who have reached beyond “bricks and mortar” locations and local neighborhoods to help people regionally, nationally, and internationally. A few highlights...

The Friends of the George Mason Regional Library recently partnered with **Spencer Salas**, a teacher from the District’s Cardoza High School, to contribute 1000 paperback classics to the Ienachita Vacarescu National College (grades 4-12) in Targoviste, Romania. Spencer taught in Targoviste from 1998 to 2000 as a Fullbright scholar, and he soon saw the community’s critical need for books, especially for the school’s new bilingual library. On returning to D.C., he solicited \$1000 from Fullbright alumni to cover the cost of shipping books to Romania. He collected 600 paperbacks from several thrift shops before hitting the jackpot at George Mason Regional’s winter book sale. He had hoped the Friends would give him a few remainders after the sale, but was thrilled when President **Helen Langford** offered him as many books as he wanted after the sale.

Of the 1000 books he chose, most are classics for high school students. The school also plans to open the collection to the public. According to Spencer, the community “has always had a love affair with anything American,” and is extremely grateful for this generous gift. Assistant Branch Manager **Marilynn Zauner**, who shared his story with us, comments: “We take books for granted here in the United States, but in many countries they are rare commodities, and libraries are not “public” for everyone as they are here.”

**Cathy Dickstein**, Technology Volunteer Supervisor at Sherwood Regional Library in Alexandria, reports that “all the volunteers in Sherwood’s new Technology Lab are providing global

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volunteer service. One of the main uses of the lab is by patrons accessing the Internet for two hours to communicate with their family and friends in their birth country. They are thrilled with the service, and it's heartwarming to our technology volunteers to know their services are appreciated throughout the world!"

**Bob Taylor**, a Tech Volunteer at Chantilly Regional Library, describes a recent e-mail connection he made possible. "I had a very pleasant time a couple sessions ago with a patron who is a British subject visiting her single daughter living in the Chantilly area... She had been fooling around with her daughter's computer but knew very little about working it and nothing about e-mail. We found the daughter's operating system, Excite, and covered several basics. She was very pleased when I suggested we look into e-mail. She had her other daughter's London e-mail address tucked away in her trip diary ..."

"Using my personal AOL e-mail account, we promptly sent a message loaded with greetings and professions of love to Daughter in London and several relatives and friends. She talked about what a fine visit she was having... We sent a copy of the message to her Chantilly hostess. So, as she said, she could prove she did it. I made a few notes for her about using Excite e-mail on her daughter's computer, and registered her for a free e-mail account, and she left with a smile. Another pleased patron. And a small stroke for international relations. The only problem during the session was my use of the word "dot" or "period." But as soon as she said she called it a "stop" in English, we had no more troubles. Sessions like that one offer this volunteer a great deal of pleasure. Thank you for letting me play at the library."

Internet Services volunteer **Marge Fare** connects with a huge international audience via the Library's Web site, says Intranet Architect **Ed Kukulka**. Thanks to Marge, preschoolers can visit the Connect the Tots page and color, play Guess the Word or Tic Tac Toe, and build with virtual

blocks. She adapted the FCPL English Language Learners Classes and Recorded Books lists so updates can be done in a fraction of the time, giving Web visitors more accurate information. She also made it possible for people to search for Library programs by branch, date, type, and keyword, and find a nearby branch by entering a zip code. Marge created the Web interface for the Virginia Room Historical Newspaper Index, which allows worldwide access to over 120 years of Fairfax County newspapers. She and Virginia Room volunteers **Malcolm Richardson** and **Barbara Welch**, who created the index, have appeared in regional media and won numerous awards.

**Margo McPhillips** is a "Virtual Volunteer" who does Internet searches for us from her home in Savage, MD, 50 miles away. She learned about FCPL's volunteer program through an ad we placed on the VolunteerMatch Web site two years ago. Margo connects us with libraries all over the nation and world through her research on creative volunteer project ideas. In November, she provided FCPL branch volunteer coordinators with web links to over two dozen new project ideas, and library systems in Georgia, Oregon, and Texas have also benefited from her research.

**Jill Freeman**, Technology Volunteer Supervisor at Chantilly Regional Library, recently hired a "Visiting Volunteer" who lives and works in Illinois. **Cindy Rauch**, a Telecommunications Specialist with GSA, visits their Fairfax office one week each month. While here, she volunteers four evenings a week. During her first week, she created fliers and forms, copied and collated, sat in on an Internet training session and then assisted in the training, rebooted OPACs, shelved reference material, and helped with closing procedures! According to Jill, "Being away from her busy family life, Cindy found the hotel room too quiet and closed in. The variety and activity in the library seemed to be the perfect setting for her ... and we needed her. We're all looking forward to Cindy's return next month. She's become a fast friend and a valuable volunteer."

**Oliver Burton**, a volunteer at the Virginia Room, also volunteers at Dulles Airport at the Meridian International Center. He speaks Japanese and works at times flights from Japan are arriving. Oliver explains "Many problems arise when people who don't speak English arrive and there is no one there to meet them. MIC volunteers help passengers find their relative or greeter and assist them with cabs, hotel connections, etc." Oliver's biggest challenge was assisting a Japanese traveler whose son disappeared in the airport. The father spoke no English, so Oliver interpreted for him and the police. His help was key to finding the child. Oliver enjoys the opportunities he has had to welcome travelers to the United States, simply by meeting a plane.

The Fairfax County Public Library Foundation, Inc. has received a \$40,000 National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop the Goodwin House West senior residence connection to Fairfax County Public Library and the Internet." Volunteers **Marty Smith, Ellen Comeau, and Allen Deschere** helped to lay the groundwork for the award, and **Stefanie Tompkins** and **Janet Jensen** provided one-on-one tutoring that now connects hundreds of residents to the Library's catalog, direct reserving of books, online reference, e-mail with friends and family, and the joys of surfing the net to shop, buy airline tickets, monitor stocks, etc. Residents now enjoy many of the same benefits experienced by patrons who come into our branches, within the safety and comfort of their own apartments.

Access Services volunteers **Wellington Machmer** and **Carolyn Kearney** spend hours on the road to help homebound people enjoy Library services. For 20 years, Wellington worked at the Access Services sites in the western part of the County, maintaining the Talking Books collection so people with disabilities could receive reading materials through the mail. Wellington is in his eighties and has contributed well over 3000 hours of volunteer time, so Access Services staff did not expect him to make the 50 mile round trip

commute to the Government Center when they moved there two years ago. But Wellington did not hesitate to make the long drive to keep supplying patrons with tapes. AS staffer **Lilian Kesler**, a longtime fan, comments "There are few left with his values and appreciation for serving others. He is a great example of one to be admired."

**Carolyn Kearney**, a volunteer at both Thomas Jefferson and Access Services, provides outreach to the community beyond her own neighborhood and branch. She is part of a group of "Homebound Volunteers" who provide book delivery to shut-ins. Carolyn takes Large Print books to residents at Fairfax Nursing Center. She spends time with each resident to discuss books, and then goes to the library to check out books that meet their reading interests. Her caring approach and dedication have given much pleasure, and a lifeline to the Library, to elderly people who cannot visit the library. She invites others to join her as Homebound Volunteers!

These are just a few examples of Library volunteers who reach out beyond their own community to provide service. Interested in exploring a rewarding volunteer opportunity of your own? Call the Volunteer Office at (703) 324-8332 today. You too can be a world class volunteer!



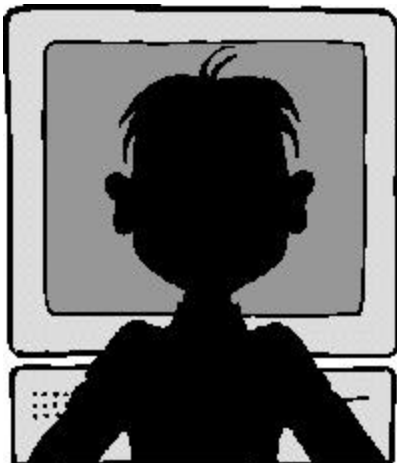
## Free Online Fun

Want to enjoy new books and authors, but have limited time? Check out the Library's Chapter-a-Day service at <http://www.chapteraday.com/library/fairfax/> and enjoy 5 minutes of good reading each week day. A different book is featured each week.

To subscribe to the Library's e-zine, FCPlease, visit <http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/library/FCPleaseMenu.htm>

Interested in reading electronic books? Go to <http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/library/dbsremote/netlibrary.htm>

If you are a Library volunteer and would like to receive an occasional e-mail with information about free programs, training, and other benefits for FCPL volunteers, e-mail your name, address, and e-mail address to [kwande@co.fairfax.va.us](mailto:kwande@co.fairfax.va.us). And if you have a suggestion or comment, please include it.



## Free Opportunity for Seniors - Older Worker Employment Expo 2001

Are you 50+ years old and interested in a career move? Do you know someone who is? A job fair and expo for older workers - including seminars, recruiters, and online job searches with a bank of 40 computers - will be held at the Fairfax County Government Center on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2001 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Recruiters from more than 50 local employers will be on hand, as well as vocational counselors. Refreshments, prize drawings, fashion show and more! Advance registration forms are available by calling (301) 608-0700. Program co-sponsored by Fairfax County Government, Fairfax Commission on Aging, Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington, and the Senior Beacon newspaper.

If you are 40+ years old, have PC and Internet searching skills, communication skills, and patience, please volunteer for a 2 hour shift as a one-on-one tutor in the Technology Center at the Older Workers Expo on March 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be an orientation a few days before the event. You will be able to help seniors who are unemployed, underemployed, or thinking of re-entering the job market to use technology to make their job search easier. To sign up, call Kate Wanderer, (703) 324-8332, or e-mail [kwande@co.fairfax.va.us](mailto:kwande@co.fairfax.va.us).

# Change the World... VOLUNTEER!

## ***Usher at Concerts!***

Music lovers needed for occasional ushering at the award-winning Rising Stars Concerts sponsored by the Music Friends of the Fairfax County Public Library and held at the Alden Theatre (McLean).

For information on upcoming concerts **call Anita Lamkin** at (703) 324-8344.

## ***Do reference work!***

Volunteers with MLS degree (or candidate) needed for public service.

## ***Check books out!***

Many branches need help on public service circulation desks. Bilingual (English and Spanish, Korean, or Vietnamese) especially helpful at some branches.

## ***Learn a new software!***

The Library Foundation seeks volunteer with excellent typing skills to learn Raiser's Edge fundraising software and maintain donor files. Since 1995, the Foundation has transferred to the Library cash and in-kind gifts exceeding \$1,000,000, including more than \$270,000 for the purchase of recorded books.

## ***Be a Tape Doctor!***

Repair audiotapes and videotapes at branches and at Library Administration (Government Center, weekday, daytime hours.)

## ***Be a Bookie!***

Are you an avid reader? Share your passion by starting or assisting with a book discussion group at one of our branch libraries or at a retirement center. Special need for book discussion on Hispanic authors. Flexible schedule, 5 hours per month.

## ***Be an Intern!***

The Library offers academic internships for college and graduate school students in library science, information technology, education, English literature, marketing, and many other fields.

## ***Research grants!***

Associate Director seeks volunteer with Internet, word processing, research, and communication skills to join a team of grant researchers and writers. Minimum commitment is 4 hours per week for 9 months, including meetings every other Tuesday at 11 am.

## ***Tell stories!***

Spanish/English-speaking storyteller needed for children's programs at Herndon Fortnightly Library. Volunteers with background in children's librarianship needed at many branches for programs and book talking.

Training provided for all positions. For information call Kate Wanderer, (703) 324-8332. Visit our web site at [http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/library/volunteer/vol\\_home.htm](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/library/volunteer/vol_home.htm) and click on Volunteer Programs to view position descriptions, online application form, and articles featuring FCPL volunteers.

## **Foundation Annual Fund Appeal**

The Fairfax County Public Library Foundation, Inc. is a private, nonprofit corporation committed to providing supplementary support to the Fairfax County Public Library. The Foundation, while reinforcing the need for continued and increased public support for the Library, serves as a catalyst for attracting private funding from individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations to enhance library services for our community. Since 1995, the Foundation has transferred to the Library cash and in-kind gifts exceeding \$1,000,000, including more than \$270,000 for the purchase of recorded books.

If you are interested in contributing to the Foundation, an envelope has been included in this mailing.

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